

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph: ✓

C1
The invention further provides a catalytic process comprising passage of at least one reactant into a reaction chamber comprising the inventive catalyst, conversion of said at least one reactant into at least one product, and passage of the product out of the reaction chamber. In a preferred embodiment, the catalytic process is conducted in an apparatus having microchannels. Microchannels have at least one dimension of about 1 mm or less. Examples of suitable microchannel apparatus and various process related factors are described in U.S. Patents Nos. 5,611,214, 5,811,062, 5,534,328, 6,488,838, 6,451,864, 6,200,536, 6,479,428, 6,440,895, 6,129,973, and 6,192,596, all of which are incorporated by reference as if reproduced in full below. In another preferred embodiment, the catalyst is a monolith - a single contiguous, yet porous, piece of catalyst or several contiguous pieces that are stacked together (not a bed of packed powder or pellets or a coating on the wall of a microchannel) that can easily be inserted and extracted from a reaction chamber. The piece or stack of catalyst pieces preferably have a width of 0.1 mm to about 2 cm, with a preferred thickness of less than 1 cm, more preferably, about 1 to about 3 mm. The inventive catalyst may provide numerous advantages to catalytic processes such as: chemical stability, stability to repeated thermal cycling, thermal stability, efficient loading and unloading of catalysts, high rates of heat transfer and mass transfer, and maintenance of desired catalytic activity.